

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A lithium secondary battery comprising a positive electrode, a negative electrode, an electrolytic solution and a separator, wherein a plurality of positive electrodes and negative electrodes are arranged to construct an electrode structure which includes an outermost layer of electrode on which a back coat layer is formed and wherein the entire surface of the outermost layer is covered with the back coat layer and only the outermost layers of the electrode structure are covered with the back coat layers.

Claim 2 (Original): The lithium secondary battery of claim 1 wherein said back coat layer has a function of preventing the electrodes from short-circuiting.

Claim 3 (Original): The lithium secondary battery of claim 1 wherein said back coat layer has a function of preventing the electrodes from warping.

Claim 4 (Original): The lithium secondary battery of claim 1 wherein said back coat layer contains at least an inorganic material as a filler and/or a resin.

Claim 5 (Original): The lithium secondary battery of claim 1 wherein said filler is the same material as an electrode active material.

Claim 6 (Original): The lithium secondary battery of claim 1 wherein said separator has a piercing strength of at least 50 gf.

Claim 7 (Original): The lithium secondary battery of claim 1 wherein said back coat layer has a thickness of 50 to 500 μm .

Claim 8 (Original): The lithium secondary battery of claim 1 wherein said electrode structure is a laminate structure.

Claim 9 (New): The lithium secondary battery of claim 1, wherein said outermost layer of electrode is the negative electrode.

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENTS

Claim 1 is currently amended.

Claims 2-8 are original.

Claim 9 is new.

Upon entry of the amendment Claims 1-9 will be active.

The amendment to Claim 1 is supported on page 6, lines 13-18, page 6, lines 33-35, page 7, lines 6-9 and in Figure 1 of the specification.

New Claim 9 is supported on page 7, lines 10-13 and in Figure 1 of the specification.

No new matter has been added by the amendment.